

(iv) Emergency care:

- The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019 provides for a scheme for the cashless treatment of victims of the accident during the golden hour.
- The National Highways Authority of India has also deployed 466 ambulances at toll plazas on the completed corridor of National Highways.

Upgradation of highways

3329. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:

LT. GEN. (DR.) D. P. VATS (RETD.):

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to upgrade certain highways to world class express highways in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with other steps taken/being taken by Government to boost the highways construction in the country?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) and (b) The Government of India had approved Bharatmala Pariyojana Phase-I in October, 2017 with an aggregate length of about 34,800 km (including 10,000 km residual NHDP stretches) at an estimated outlay of ₹ 5,35,000.00 crores. This programme also includes development of about 800 km length of Expressways. The works of Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway and Delhi-Meerut Expressway have been taken up under Bharatmala Pariyojana Programme.

Delay in awarding highway projects

3330. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is struggling to award more highway projects due to delay in land acquisition and the delay will slacken the pace of highway construction in the country;

(b) if so, the number of highway projects awarded for the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by Government to overcome the delay in land acquisition and to speed up the award of highway projects?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) to (c) Land Acquisition is critical for the commencement and completion of construction of National Highways. Delay in land Acquisition is one of the major factors besides delay in utility shifting, environment/ forest/wildlife clearances, Road Over Bridge (ROB) and Road Under Bridge (RUB), issues with Railways in causing delay in award of Highway projects. Though NH length awarded during F.Y. 2018-19 was less than the length awarded during F.Y. 2017-18, however, the length awarded during the current F.Y. up to Feb. 2020 is 4775 km which is more than the length awarded up to the corresponding month of F.Y. 2018-19 *i.e.* 3309 km. All efforts are being made to maintain the pace of construction in the country. Details of highway projects awarded during last three years in the country are tabulated below.

Year	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Length awarded (km)	15948	17055	5493

Details of remedial measures taken by Government to expedite the land acquisition for Highway projects are given in the Statement.

Statement

Details of the remedial measures taken by Government to expedite the land acquisition for highway projects

- (i) Delegation of powers to Regional Officers for speedier decision making.
- (ii) Engagement of retired revenue personnel at Regional Officer/ Project Director Level as well as at Competent Authority for Land Acquisition level to assist in Land Acquisition matters.
- (iii) Completion of major portion of land acquisition prior to invitation of bid.
- (iv) Constitution of High Power Committee under Chief Secretary to resolve the issue related to land acquisition.
- (v) Introduction of Bhoomi Rashi portal for online processing of Land Acquisition process for reducing the time in LA.

- (vi) Regular review at the level of Hon'ble Minister (RTH, MSME), Secretary (RTH), DO (RD) &SS and Chairman, NHAI and other senior officers.
- (vii) Close coordination with other Ministries and State Governments.

Fulfillment of target set for construction of NHS

3331. SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that construction of National Highway on per day per kilometer basis in the country has been lagging behind the target fixed by Government;
- (b) if so, the reasons behind this delay; and
- (c) the details of steps that have been taken by Government to achieve targets to fulfil their commitments?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) to (c) The average daily pace of construction of National Highways is 25.23 km per day till December in fiscal year 2019-20 which is almost in pace with the target for construction of National Highways in current fiscal year.

Various steps are taken by Government from time to time to achieve the targets. To expedite completion of NHs projects various steps are taken which include streamlining of land acquisition and environment clearances, premium re-scheduling, close coordination with other Ministries, revamping of dispute resolution mechanism, regular meetings with project developers, State Governments and contractors at various levels etc.

Roads and highways along international borders

†3332. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of roads and highways constructed in the country, in the areas bordering China, Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh during last five years; and
- (b) the areas wherein the said construction has been carried out and the expenditure incurred thereon?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.